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Subject: Microsoft Issue

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice is fair and reasonable, and I am in full support of it. The American economy is in need of all the help it can get, and allowing Microsoft to get out of court and turn all of their attention to business is a great way to help.

The recession that we are currently in actually can be traced to the suit against Microsoft. The market started to slip three years ago when the suit was announced, and kept going down. In order to get out of the hole that we are in, Microsoft and the rest of the IT industry must perform at peak levels. The settlement encourages such performance by restricting retaliation from Microsoft against competitors who produce and promote software that competes with Microsoft's. The settlement also mandates that Microsoft document to their competitors, interface data internal to Windows. This assists in the compatibility between competing software firms.

All in all, the settlement will encourage competition and be beneficial to the economy. I fully support the settlement.

Sincerely,

Balvina Pawlak
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